

Matthew G. McKay
Chief of Department



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TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
Fire Department Headquarters
47 Central Street
Georgetown, Massachusetts 01833-2422

Fire Department Fiscal Year 2023 Report

	Fire	Ambulance Enterprise
Salaries & Wages	\$522,554.78	\$278,512.00
Operating Expenses	\$118,248.13	\$106,750.00

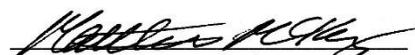
During fiscal year 2023, the Fire Department continued to see growth in call volume, up +30% vs FY22 (1,537 total runs). 41 runs fit the National Fire Incident Reporting Statistics (NFIRS) category of “Fire/Explosion” related. Much of the volume increase came from Mutual Aid calls for our ambulance service, which resulted in a +225% increase (264 total runs). EMS and First Responder staffing challenges have been felt across the country since the start of the COVID 19 Pandemic and continues well after. Georgetown Fire continues to feel the effects which applies not only our staffing and burnout pressures but as well as coverage, taking our responders out of town.

The department experienced turnover challenges previously mentioned, starting with wishing Acting Chief Charles Savage a happy and health retirement from the fire service after a 45-year long career, 20 serving Georgetown. His knowledge and training ability will be and is greatly missed. The department also lost six (6) Part-Time/Call Firefighters due to various reasons and one (1) Full-Time firefighter, whose position was filled a few months later due to lack of qualified candidates. The current department structure has 421 hours filled per week, balanced by 62% Part-Time/Per Diem and 38% Full-Time. With the aforementioned turnover, this puts a tremendous burden on our current employees to fill shifts. We continue to recruit qualified candidates for Part-Time work that can meet the demanding requirements of today’s fire service and growth of the department but look towards the future with more balanced full-time to per-diem hours.

Despite these challenges, the men and women of the Georgetown Fire Department continue to provide excellent service to the community. We continue to see the immense benefit of overnight staffing in station which has reduced on scene times by over 50%. For the first time ever, ambulance gross revenue exceeded \$500,000 with the increased transports. We took delivery in April of a brand-new Ambulance 11 which provides 4-wheel drive capability, a smoother ride and an overall better transport experience for both the patient and responders.

We understand the immense financial pressures the town is facing and greatly appreciate the support year in and year out. Together, we will continue to provide the safety and service that is expected. Thank you to the community and especially to the members of the Georgetown Fire Department.

Sincerely,


Chief Matthew G. McKay